

May 4, 2025
Third Sunday of Easter
11:00am — Sanctuary



Jesus and Peter Fishing, Olga Bakhtina 2017, oil on canvas

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET



**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Fanfare and Processional

Douglas E. Wagner

Pealing of the Hour

Call to Worship

Brothers and sisters, if you lift your net and it is empty, come here!

We'll cast it out again into Christ's abundance.

If you open your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, come here!

We'll find the Risen Christ here among us.

If your life is filled with mourning, come here!

Christ is leading a dance of joy.

Come here, sisters and brothers!

To give blessing and honor and glory to God!

***Hymn No. 238**

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

***Call to Confession**

Christ has risen, and we have risen to new life with him. Yet we must confess the ways we have continued to remain in our tombs of sin and death. Join me in our responsive prayer of confession.

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, save us from ourselves.

We continue to do the same things over and over, expecting different results.

Lord, save us from doing too much.

We go fishing every day, not noticing you waiting with a meal on the beach.

Lord, save us from doing too little.

We say we love you, and yet so often we neglect your sheep.

Lord, save us from ourselves.

Help us to hear and respond when you say, "Follow Me."

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

***Responsive Hymn No. 582** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a time signature of 12/8. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has par-doned me, and to the Spir-it, whose love has set me free. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men."

Glo-ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me, and to the
Son, whose grace has par-doned me, and to the Spir-it, whose love has
set me free. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Acts 9:1-20

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
REFRAIN: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, Hill and vale and tree and
flower, Sun and moon and stars of light: REFRAIN.
For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth and
friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild: REFRAIN.
For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given, Graces human and
divine, Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n: REFRAIN.

Gospel Reading

John 21:1-19

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!**Sermon**

“How’s the View from There?”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD***Affirmation of Faith***from A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA)***We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.****Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:****preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,****teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,****healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,****eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,****and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.****Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,****Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain****and giving his life for the sins of the world.****God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,****breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.****Amen.*****Hymn No. 239**

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

GELOBT SEI GOTT

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Jon D. Vieker

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

First Presbyterian Church believes the table is not ours, but God's. All who put their faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of church affiliation, are encouraged to participate in the great feast of faith.

Communion Anthem

Eat this Bread

Jacques Berthier

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

***Hymn No. 246**

Christ is Alive!

TRURO

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

Healey Willan

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of the Kettler family by Carol Kettler.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Betsy Perry-Patton, Marj Sapp

Ushers of the Month: Eric Evans, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, Anita Wolfe

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Interim Chancel Choir Director: Jonathan Busarow

Guest Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Billy Sauerland

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir: Richard Baughman, Chris Bay, David Beer, Quinton Davis, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, DuWayne Hintz, Joan Kern, Scott McMeen, Kathy Miller, Kip Ormerod, Mary Jane Ormerod, Ellis Pedersen, Josh Rakoczy, Carol Rhudy, Marj Sapp, Sandy Shearer, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Communion Servers & Preparers: Tony Borton, Chip Davis, Denise Davis, Beth Hague, Jill Therrien, Anita Wolfe

Prayer List

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| • Mark Chasse | • Jane Gastineau |
| • John Ruble | • Jeff Linville |
| • Art & Lou Brickman | • Barbara McCants |
| • Marcie Weissner | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Scott Pattison | • Dana & Les Gurney |

If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, let us know.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or you're a longtime member, we are thrilled to have you join us as we explore our shared journey with Christ. I hope you find the worship service uplifting and meaningful.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we hold our 193-year-old history in creative tension with 21st-century challenges. We honor traditions that have shaped generations before us while exploring how Jesus's message speaks to the complexities of life today. Our members come from different backgrounds, carry unique stories, and approach faith with a variety of perspectives. Some of us may have questions, others may have doubts, and many of us are navigating challenges—yet we come together as one body to worship and grow in faith.

You're welcome to visit our website at www.firstpresfortwayne.org for more information about the church, and I invite you to talk to any of the pastors, stop by the Welcome Table in the narthex (lobby) after church, and/or join us for coffee in McKay Hall following worship. We have many programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. And, if you are looking for a church home, we hope you'll get connected at First Presbyterian. It would be an honor to be your church family.

Blessings,
Annie Epling Pastor/Head of Staff

—> Hearing Loops

To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T”, T-Coil or telephone position.

—> Families with Children

Jesus loves the little children, and we do too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child, ages 6 months thru five years, is always invited. Our nursery meets in the first-floor day school wing, so please ask an usher or the front office volunteer for assistance and a key fob.

News and Events

Art & Fellowship — Today

Join us in the FPC Gallery today from 12:15-1:00 PM for light refreshments and to view and enjoy the submitted works from the 2025 South Side High School Arts Fest! Many young artists contributed to this exhibit, showcasing both 2D and 3D works. Please stop by!

Men's Bible Study Hiatus — May 9 thru Sept 5

The Men's Bible study will have their last meeting before taking a summer break on Friday, May 9, at 10:00 am on Teams. The group will resume on September 5!

Ordination & Installation of New Officers — May 11

Join us for worship on Sunday, May 11, as we joyfully ordain and install our newly elected deacons and elders. This is a sacred moment in the life of our church, when we recognize and bless those who have been called to serve Christ and this congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

We give thanks for their willingness to lead and invite you to surround them with your prayers, encouragement, and gratitude as they take on this important responsibility. Their calling is not only an honor — it's a commitment to serve with faithfulness and humility. Let's celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of our church together!

MAD2 Camp Registration Open! — Deadline May 11

That's right! Our registration for this summer's MAD2 Camp is still open! This summer, we'll be exploring the arts as we "Follow the Yellow Brick Road!" We hope you'll be joining us for First Pres MAD2 Camp, June 2-6, 2025!

Scholarships are available! Please email Pastor Carrie for details. Spaces are limited to the first 100 campers to register, so register soon by scanning the QR code!

Questions? Pastor Carrie is always eager to help! Email: cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org Office: 260-426-7421 x112.



Eco Fest 2025 — May 18

Join us for Eco Fest Fort Wayne at Headwaters Park on Sunday, May 18! The FPC Green Team will have a booth to share information about their work to promote sustainability and support our environment through reduce, reuse, and recycle programs. Eco Fest is a sustainability focused and family friendly event with workshops, music, food, and vendors.

Graduate Recognition Sunday — May 25

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, May 25, we'll celebrate our graduates during worship and during our hospitality time afterwards. This year, we're recognizing three high school seniors and one college graduate. We've watched them grow, and now it's our turn to cheer them on as they step into what's next. Join us for this meaningful moment in the life of our church family!

Touchy Topics Book Club — May 28

The next Touchy Topics Book Club is Wednesday at 6:30pm. Touchy Topics Book Club is open to anyone; invite your friends and/or make new ones. Explore how your faith calls you to respond to current events.

This quarter we're reading "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond. In Evicted, Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Evicted transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible. Books can be purchased through Sunbound Books, a local bookseller, or online. An audio copy is available through the library. Childcare can be offered, please register your child(ren) by emailing aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Resource Library

The Stephen Ministry maintains a resource library of books dealing with a range of issues, among them, dementia, grief, end of life planning, aging, mental health issues, and gender issues. The books are available to be checked out to members of the congregation. Please contact Rev Ann Pitman, Marcie Weissner, or Carolyn Krebs to arrange a time to look through the titles available.

Security Alarm Alert: Help Us Avoid False Alarms!

Friends, we need your help. Recently, our building security alarm has been triggered more often than the church bell on Sunday morning — and not in a good way. When someone enters the building without staff present, it sets off the alarm, which triggers a call to the alarm company, then to staff, and sometimes even to the police. It's disruptive, stressful, and entirely preventable.

Here's how you can help:

If you need to enter the church outside of office hours, or when staff won't be present, please make arrangements with the church office ahead of time. Also, if you've scheduled an early arrival, please don't arrive earlier than planned — even a few minutes early can trigger the alarm if staff haven't had a chance to disarm the system yet. We're happy to help coordinate your visit so everything goes smoothly (and quietly). Thanks for understanding and helping us keep things safe, secure, and siren-free!

Follow the Yellow Brick Road... to MAD2 Camp! — June 2–6

Lions and tigers and *volunteers*, oh my! It's time to gear up for the **fifth annual MAD2 Camp**, our beloved week of Music, Art, Drama, and Dance for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade—and this year, we're off to see the Wizard! To bring this magical journey to life, we need a cast of committed volunteers to help make the week unforgettable. Whether you're a seasoned Glinda or just curious about life behind the curtain, there's a role for everyone. From guiding small groups to helping with sets, snacks, and smiles—your time and talents make all the difference. If you're available and excited to support creativity, community, and kids, we'd love to have you on the team!

A brief background check is required; a fillable PDF will be sent once you sign up at: <https://bit.ly/MAD2Help>. Please email the completed form and any questions to Carrie at cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Thank you for your heart, your hands, and your commitment to building a more colorful world through the arts. We can't wait to journey down the Yellow Brick Road with you!

GETTING CONNECTED

MEMBERSHIP

Whether you live in the Fort Wayne area or worship with us online, we welcome you to join our family of faith. Through Coffee with the Pastors, you'll learn more about First Presbyterian Church, its history, and its current ministry in a relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're sure membership is right for you, or you're just beginning to wonder if this might be your spiritual home, we'd love to have you join us for coffee. We will be hosting Coffee with the Pastors on May 4 at 9:15am in the Session Room. All are welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION

Wired Word — Sunday Mornings, 10am

Join us each week as we delve into a topic inspired by recent news and explore how the Bible speaks to the events shaping our world today. Each Sunday brings a fresh topic, making this group perfect for those with busy schedules who may not be able to attend every week. Topics are emailed each Friday, so please let Luci Gilpin at lucifoltz@gmail.com know if you'd like to receive that email. All are welcome — come as you are and join the conversation.

Touchy Topics — Quarterly Meetings

This group reads a book (religious or not) about a touchy topic and then comes together to talk about it. Previous books include *Fever in the Heartland*, *Canary in the Coalmine*, and *This is How It Is*. Information on upcoming books can be found in the Friday e-news and News & Events section of the bulletin.

Men's Bible Study — Fridays, 10am (on hiatus May 10-Sep 5)

This group is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Women's Bible Study — Fridays, 1pm

This group is led by Rev. Ann Pitman and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Rev. Pitman at apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org.

English and Korean Small Group Study — 3rd Sunday of the month, 9:15am

The lessons are published in both Korean and English, and the study is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and Rev. Annie Epling. Email them for more information at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org or aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Table Talk for Women — Wednesdays, 10am

This group reads a book at their own pace and is led by members of the group on Zoom. Look for more information about the group in the Friday e-news or New & Events section of the bulletin when they begin a new book.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

North and South Dinner Groups — 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30pm

A great way to get to know other First Pres members is through our local area Dinner Groups. These groups meet the 2nd Monday of every month. The South Dinner Group meets at Hall's Coventry (5745 Coventry Lane) at 5:30pm. No need to RSVP, just ask for the First Pres tables. It's a big group, so you can't miss it! The North Dinner Group meets at 5:30pm at Don Hall's Factory. Please RSVP to Sondra Mergenthal at (260) 437-9892 or by email at lisoninc@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Faith, Fiber, and Fellowship — Mondays, 3pm

This group meets weekly at 3pm on Mondays in Room 302 on the 3rd floor. Bring your latest fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting.

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B) — Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30PM in McKay Hall

Maintaining balance is essential as we age. A decline in stability increases the risk of falls, impacting independence and quality of life. Good balance helps prevent falls, supports daily activities, and reduces the risk of serious injuries.

Join us for 3B, a lifetime fitness class designed to improve balance, flexibility, and strength using chairs and other provided equipment. These free classes are open to all adults aged 50 and older and are filled with fun, fellowship, and fitness. Our holistic approach combines proven physical therapy exercises, healthy brain activities, and opportunities for spiritual, emotional, and social growth. Classes meet twice a week in McKay Hall. We'd love to have you join us!

MISSIONS

Through our Missions Ministry, many of our members and friends are engaged in volunteering and advocacy. Our programs include making and serving dinner at the Rescue Mission on the 3rd Sundays of the month, providing a meal for the residents of St. Joseph Missions monthly, packing weekend meals for Washington Elementary students on Sundays after worship in McKay Hall, and our annual Hands On Fort Wayne day of service. On the 3rd Sundays of the month, we collect food for local food banks. We also maintain mission partnerships with many local, national, and international partners. They include:

- Help Not Handcuffs
- Washington Elementary School
- South Wayne Elementary School
- South Side High School
- St. Josephs Mission
- Wellspring Interfaith Services
- East Wayne Street Food Bank
- United Faith Presbyterian Church Food Bank
- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Matthew 25 Clinic
- Rescue Mission
- Reproductive Rights Action Committee with Plymouth UCC
- PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Costa Rica, Taiwan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon

Green Team

Our Green Team is active throughout the year. In the winter, you can find them distributing the “Bag of Bags,” which are reusable grocery bags. In the spring, they have a booth at Eco Fest, sponsor a recycling drive at Hands ON Fort Wayne, and host our biennial Pet Blessing with a collection of items for local animal shelters. Throughout the year, they sell Fair Trade chocolate with proceeds supporting our food bank ministry.

FWCS Clothing Bank

The Schools Team wishes to remind everyone that a designated bin is available in the Small Dining Room to deposit gently-used clothing for the Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank. Through school referrals, the Clothing Bank has provided clothing for thousands of students and families in need, sometimes enabling the attendance of students who have no appropriate clothing for school. All types of gently-used clothing in all sizes (baby to adult) are needed, as well as shoes, coats, boots, gloves/mittens, and hats. (Socks and underwear must be new.) If you're paring down your wardrobe, please remember to bring in a bag of wearable items for the FWCS Clothing Bank bin. Thank you!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday School for Children and Youth

Two Sunday School classes for children and youth are offered during the worship hour. We all begin worship in the sanctuary, then the children head to Sunday School after Time with Children. Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on Communion Sundays so that we may all participate in that sacrament as a family.

Holy Moly — for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade

Join Mrs. Rachel and Friends for another fun semester of learning from the Holy Moly curriculum from SparkHouse. Each class includes a Bible story, video, and craft time, with an opportunity to earn Bible Bucks for fun prizes and treats.

Level Up — for youth in 5th through 9th grades

Taught by Pastor Carrie and other members of the church, we explore big questions about our church, our faith, and the world, such as science, politics, social justice, and environment.

Youth Group — 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:15-2PM, lunch provided

Building relationships while burning off some energy is important! Through service, games, food, and more, we have many events to decompress from school and extracurriculars throughout the year. All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to join this amazing group of young people!

FINE ARTS MINISTRY

The **Fine Arts Ministry** consists of the Art Gallery, Music Series, and the Theater. Throughout the year, the three art forms together present exhibits, concerts and shows which seek to enhance our faith through visual art, music, and drama all while highlighting themes and challenges within our world. The mission of the Fine Arts Ministry is to *Enrich Our Faith Through the Arts*. This important ministry seeks to create artistic beauty and to help us grow in our faith with God right along with the mission of the church. A full listing of these events can be found at <https://firstpresfortwayne.org/arts/>.

The **Music Ministry** at First Pres has several ensembles open to anyone who loves to make music with others. From Labor Day through June 8th, the Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room on the second floor from 7-8:30pm and the Handbell Choir meets in Room 201 from 5:30-6:30pm, both on Thursday evenings. Anyone is welcome to join with no experience necessary.

Our **Theater**, established in 1968, creates entertaining, educational, and inclusive theatre productions to inspire and motivate our audiences. We produce comedies, musicals, and dramas that teach us about ourselves and the world we live in. Our engaging productions have something for everyone, including pertinent messages like love, compassion, and bravery, while focusing on the human condition which can be funny and traumatizing.

CALENDAR

Today

- 10:00 am** **Wired Word.**—2nd Floor Parlor
11:00 am **Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream
 Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream
12:00 pm **Hospitality Time.**—Art Gallery. Join us for coffee, cookies, and
 connections with our faith family.
12:15 pm **Blessings in a Backpack.**—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon May 5

- 1:30 pm** **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for
 adults aged 50 and older.
3:00 pm **Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302. Bring your fiber project for
 a time of fellowship and crafting with other women.

Wed May 7

- 12:00 pm** **Staff Lunch Hosted by Personnel Committee.**—Small Dining Room.
1:30 pm **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for
 adults aged 50 and older.

Fri May 9

- 10:00 am** **Men's Bible Study.**—Zoom. Email Rev. Youngsoo An
 `ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org` for more information.
1:00 pm **Women's Bible Study.**—Zoom. Email Rev. Ann Pitman
 `apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org` for more information.

Coming Soon

Sun May 11

- 11:00 am** **Ordination & Installation of New Officers.**—Sanctuary, during worship.
Sun May 18 **Last Day of Sunday School.**—Holy Moly and Level-Up.
12:15 pm **Youth Group Lunch.**—Food will be provided.

Sun May 25

- 11:00 am** **Graduate Recognition.**—Sanctuary, during worship.